

BEFORE
THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF
SOUTH CAROLINA
DOCKET NO. 2006-56-C - ORDER NO. 2006-227

APRIL 13, 2006

IN RE: Joint Application of Sprint Communications) ORDER APPROVING
Company L.P. and Sprint Long Distance,) TRANSFER OF
Incorporated for Transfer of Customer Base) CUSTOMER BASE

This matter comes before the Public Service Commission of South Carolina (the Commission) on the Joint Application of Sprint Communications Company L.P. (Sprint L.P.) and Sprint Long Distance, Inc. (LTD Long Distance)(together, the Joint Applicants) for authority to transfer all of Sprint LP's residential long distance customers served by Sprint LP in the local exchange territory of United Telephone Company of the Carolinas (United) to LTD Long Distance, as well as certain business customers that have headquarters located in the local service area. Sprint LP and LTD Long Distance also request that the Commission waive any applicable anti-slamming regulations.

Pursuant to the instructions of the Commission's Docketing Department, the Joint Applicants published a Notice of Filing in newspapers of general circulation in the affected areas. The Joint Applicants furnished proof of publication, and, therefore, that they had followed the instructions of the Docketing Department. No Protests or Petitions to Intervene were received.

The Application requested an expedited review of the Application and furnished the verified written testimony of C. Steve Parrott, State Executive for North Carolina and

South Carolina. We will consider the Commission's agenda session of April 4, 2006 as the due hearing required by S.C. Code Ann. Section 58-9-310 (Supp. 2005), and we will proceed to rule on this matter. We grant expedited review.

Witness Parrott explained why the proposed transfer is necessary. United and LTD Long Distance will be legally separated from Sprint Nextel Corporation, including Sprint Nextel's subsidiary Sprint LP. As part of that separation, residential and some business long distance customers will stay with LTD Holding Company or one of its subsidiaries. Many of these customers currently purchase Sprint LP long distance service as part of a bundle with local dial tone and custom calling features provided by United. These customers associate their bundle with the local telephone company rather than the long distance company. Thus, in order to continue that association, Parrott states that it makes sense that these customers stay with United and its associated long distance company, LTD Long Distance. Accordingly, all residential and small business customers located in United's service territory will become customers of LTD Long Distance. Large multi-office corporations with headquarters located in United's service territory will also be customers of LTD Long Distance. The customers have the right to stay with Sprint LP or to move on to any other long distance provider that they may choose after notification.

On February 1, 2006, LTD Holding Company announced that it will operate as Embarq Corporation subsequent to legal separation from Sprint Nextel Corporation. To comply with all FCC and state requirements associated with long distance customer migrations, LTD Long Distance will notify all migrating long distance customers of the name change and pending migration to Embarq in a timeline consistent with the required

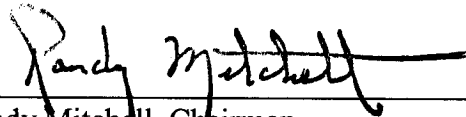
tariff and corporate governance document changes. Once all of the required regulatory approvals are received, Embarq will complete its legal separation from Sprint Nextel Corporation towards the end of the second quarter.

Parrott testified that approving this Application would be in the public interest. All customers to be transferred reside in United's service territory. Many of them receive a bundled service from United consisting of local and long distance which makes them eligible for pricing discounts. According to Parrott, in order to reduce customer confusion, it only makes sense that Sprint LP long distance customers affected by the legal separation of the local telephone operations from Sprint Nextel be transferred to LTD Long Distance and rebranded with the new corporate name EMBARQ.

We have considered this matter, and believe that the Sprint LP long distance customers affected by the legal separation of the local telephone operations from Sprint Nextel should be transferred to LTD Long Distance. We believe that this will tend to reduce confusion, under the circumstances. Accordingly, we approve the Joint Application as being in the public interest. We also waive any applicable anti-slamming regulations. Further, as recommended by the Office of Regulatory Staff (ORS), Sprint Long Distance, Inc. should amend its tariff to incorporate the same rates, terms and conditions that the customers currently receive from Sprint Communications Company L.P.

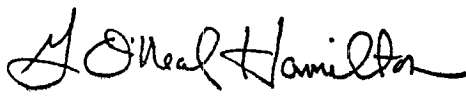
This Order shall remain in full force and effect until further Order of the Commission.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:



Randy Mitchell, Chairman

ATTEST:



G. O'Neal Hamilton, Vice-Chairman

(SEAL)